

What is claimed is:

1. An apparatus for reproducing data by scanning slant tracks formed on a tape-shaped recording medium using a plurality of reproducing heads disposed on a rotary drum,  
5 said apparatus comprising:

measuring means for measuring error rates by reading said data from said tracks formed on said tape-shaped recording medium by said reproducing heads disposed on said rotary drum;

10 track detecting means for detecting a worst track deemed to have a highest error rate from said tracks respectively formed at predetermined cycles on said tape-shaped recording medium, based on said error rates measured by said measuring means;

15 head determining means for determining a pair of reproducing heads out of said plurality of reproducing heads, said pair of reproducing heads are able to read data recorded on said worst track at lowest error rates based on said error rates measured by said measuring means; and

20 servo control means for performing tracking servo control such that said worst track is scanned by said pair of reproducing heads determined by said head determining means.

25 2. The apparatus according to claim 1,  
wherein four tracks are cyclically formed on said tape-shaped recording medium, adjacent ones of said four tracks having different azimuth angles; and  
four reproducing heads are disposed for each azimuth  
30 angle on said rotary drum.

3. The apparatus according to claim 1,  
wherein said measuring means measures said error rates  
while said tape-shaped recording medium is forwarded at a  
different speed from a normal reproduction speed.

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4. The apparatus according to claim 1,  
wherein said servo control means is configured to  
perform servo control such that said error rates of said  
data read by said pair of reproducing heads determined by  
10 said head determining means are optimized in the middle of  
said worst track in a longitudinal direction thereof.

5. A method of reproducing data by scanning slant tracks  
formed on a tape-shaped recording medium using a plurality  
15 of reproducing heads disposed on a rotary drum, said method  
comprising the steps of:

measuring error rates by reading said data from said  
tracks formed on said tape-shaped recording medium by said  
reproducing heads disposed on said rotary drum;

20 detecting a worst track deemed to have a highest error  
rate from said tracks respectively formed at predetermined  
cycles on said tape-shaped recording medium, based on said  
error rates measured by said measuring step;

determining a pair of reproducing heads out of said  
25 plurality of reproducing heads, said pair of reproducing  
heads are able to read data recorded on said worst track  
at lowest error rates, based on said error rates measured  
by said measuring step; and

performing tracking servo control such that said worst  
30 track is scanned by said pair of reproducing heads determined  
by said determining step.